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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5295
INFO RUEHHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT 2178
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 7030
RUEHCL/AMCONSUL CASABLANCA 3265
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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 04 ALGIERS 000198

SIPDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y --C H A N G E O F C L A S S I F I C A T I O N

N O F O R N
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N E A F O R K . H A R R I N G T O N A N D M . P O P A L

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T A G S P R E L , P G O V , A G

S U B J E C T : S C E N E S E T T E R F O R A / S W E L C H V I S I T T O A L G E R I A
R E F : A . A L G I E R S 1 1 1 B . A L G I E R S 1 1 0 A N D A L G I E R S 1 4 0 C . 0 7 A L G I E R S 1 8 0 6 D . 0 7 A L G I E R S 1 8 0 7 A N D 0 8 A L G I E R S 0 0 7 5 E . A L G I E R S 1 4 1

C l a s s i f i e d B y : A m b a s s a d o r R o b e r t F o r d , r e a s o n 1 . 4 (b) a n d (d)

11. (C) We and the Algerians are looking forward to your visit next week. There was a prominent article about your visit, generated with help from
AN UNHAPPY COUNTRY

12. (C) There is much discussion among political circles about the constitution, the third term and the succession issue, but precious little on
THE VISION THING

13. (C) These political, economic and social problems notwithstanding, Algeria is richer than ever. The oil and gas sector is running up records
A L G I E R S 0 0 0 0 0 1 9 8 0 0 2 O F 0 0 4
programming.)

T E R R O R I S M P R O B L E M N O T A T H R E A T T O S T A B I L I T Y

14. (S/NF) The social discontent enables al-Qaida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) to find a steady supply of recruits but not enough
C O U N T E R - T E R R O R C O O P E R A T I O N V E R Y G O O D

15. (S/NF) As the AQIM threat has ratcheted up, we have increased our collaboration with Algerian military intelligence. They are prickly, paranoid
M I L I T A R Y T O M I L I T A R Y : W E M U S T B E P A T I E N T

16. (S/NF) While the Algerians are not rushing to expand our mil-mil relationship, it is slowly growing. For the first time in early 2007 the A
A L G I E R S 0 0 0 0 0 1 9 8 0 0 3 O F 0 0 4

R E G I O N A L P O L I C I E S : F A R A P A R T F R O M U S

17. (C) Bouteflika is very much his own foreign minister and his thinking about regional politics has evolved little from the 1970s. He loyally
--- Peace Process: They line up behind the Arab League consensus, arguing in private that it is hopeless to try to exclude Syria and Hamas from
--- Lebanon: The Algerians back Arab League efforts and hope for consensus to develop among the Lebanese factions. Their senior MFA official worried
--- Iraq: President Bouteflika told Senator Nelson last summer that the U.S. should not withdraw too quickly from Iraq lest security deteriorate
--- Iran: Algerian officials remember Iranian support for Algerian Islamists in the early 1990s and are suspicious of Iran's regional intent. Pr
--- Western Sahara: This is the issue that the GoA cares the most about and you will likely receive an earful. The GoA still lingers over the hc
A L G I E R S 0 0 0 0 0 1 9 8 0 0 4 O F 0 0 4
exhaustion of broad American patience with the long-standing dispute will be the best way of shaking loose the Algerian fixation on Baker.

A N D T H E G U A N T A N A M O P R O B L E M

18. (S) For the past two years we have sought GoA approval for the repatriation of some of the two dozen Algerians held at the facility. During
F O R D